

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02400 011831Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----078911 011832Z /43
O 011631Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8738

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2400

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ARA, D AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: SANTIAGO 2314

1. CONFRONED WITH OBSTRUCTIVE CONDITIONS FROM TOWNLEY'S LAWYER FOR PRIVATE PRE-HEARING QUESTIONING BY PROPPER AND FBI, PROPPER HAS DROPPED THAT REQUIREMENT IN FAVOR OF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN LETTERS ROGATORY AND SOONEST THEREAFTER EXPULSION FROM COUNTRY ON US ARREST WARRANT. TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ SUPPOSED TO APPEAR BEFORE JUDGE GONZALEZ 0900 APRIL 1. IN REPEATED TELEPHONE CONVERSTATIONS EVENING OF MARCH 31, AMBASSADOR PRESSED INTERIOR SUBSECRETARY MONTERO FOR DETENTION FOLLOWING GONZALEZ HEARING AND EXPULSION ON FLIGHT THIS EVENING. MONTERO SAID THAT GOC WILL EXPEL TOWNLEY "AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT", STRESSING THE "POSSIBLE." OUR CONCERN FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IS OCCASIONED IN PART BY FEAR FOR TOWNLEY'S SAFETY OR THAT HE MAY FLEE. MONTERO SAID THAT GOC ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY ON BOTH COUNTS. IN EFFECT, TOWNLEY IS PRACTICALLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST GUARDED BY CNI PERSONNEL.

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2. TOWNLEY'S LAWYER INSISTED THAT QUESTIONING OF TOWNLEY PRIOR TO HEARING BE IN SPANISH (PRESUMABLY SO HE COULD UNDERSTAND) AND THAT ONLY ONE PERSON FROM USG SIDE BE PRESENT. TOWNLEY WOULD HAVE A TOTAL OF THREE PERSONS ON HIS SIDE. THESE CONDITIONS UNACCEPTABLE. GIVEN MINIMAL IMPORTANCE AT THIS STAGE OF ENTIRE LETTERS ROGATORY PROCEDURE (OTHER THAN TO SATISFY FORMAL NICETIES --

WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO GOC), WE GAVE COPIES OF US ARREST WARRANT TO CNI-HEAD MENA AND ASKED THAT FORMAL HEARING TAKE PLACE APRIL 1 AND THAT TOWNLEY THEN BE EXPELLED. AFTER SOME DELAY OR CONFUSION SUMMONS TO APPEAR AT COURT APRIL 1 WAS SERVED ON TOWNLEY EVENING OF MARCH 31. IN ORDER FOR HEARING TO TAKE PLACE SUMMONS MUST BE SERVED THE PRECEDING DAY.

3. WE BELIEVE GOC WILL IN FACT EXPELL TOWNLEY, AS PROMISED BY MONTERO LAST NIGHT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MENA TALKED WITH PINOCHET EVENING OF MARCH 31, BUT DO NOT YET HAVE REPORT ON WHAT DISCUSSED OR DECIDED.

LANDAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: LETTERS ROGATORY, ASSASSINATION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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